

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 10/676,256

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-13 have been examined. Claims 1, 3-5, 7 and 9-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by US 5,453,770 to Katakura et al., and claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable in view of Katakura and US 6,664,716 to Cuhat et al. Also, the Examiner has indicated that claim 8 contains allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of claims 8 and 12 into claim 1. Since the Examiner indicated that claim 8 contains allowable subject matter, Applicant submits that the respective rejections of claims 1, 3-7 and 9-13 are now overcome.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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Date: May 9, 2006

Respectfully submitted,


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